

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 2, 2008

(Approved on September 8, 2008)

Chair Jeffrey Cammack called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:00 pm in Florian Hall, Maine Department of Public Safety Building, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta. Members present were John Arsenault, Jay Bradshaw, Stephen Bunker, Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Chief Darrel Fournier, Ron Green, Alan Hammond (for Alan Johnston), Ed Marks, Alex McPhedran, Vicki Schmidt, Charles Soltan, Joseph Thomas (for Chief John Dean), David Wacker and Susan Pinette (staff). Members absent were Representative Patricia Blanchette, Chief Dan Brooks, Representative Dean Cray, Gerry Gay, Geoffrey Maker, Robert McAleer, Senator Richard Nass, Harty Norris, Representative Benjamin Pratt and Senator Ethan Strimling. Guests of the Fire Commission attending today's meeting were Representative Peter Rines of Wiscasset and Gene Cote from Maine Fire Instructors and Rescue Educators (MEFIRE).

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Alex McPhedran, to accept the minutes of the May 5, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

The 2009 Spring Conference Committee reported the administrative services agreement with Maine Municipal Association (MMA) runs until January 2009. MMA has provided assistance with the planning and managing of the conference, including printing, mailing and registration. Members agreed to continue the partnership with MMA and meet with MMA to discuss the 2009 conference. The 2009 Spring Conference Committee will also finalize a date and place for the conference and report back to the Fire Commission at the August meeting.

The Training Facilities Committee continues to revise the DVD and "leave behind". Fire Commission members will receive revised copies prior to the August meeting.

The Best Practices Committee reported no new submissions for the Best Practices Award but encouraged Fire Commission members and others to submit nominations. Nomination forms are available on the Fire Commission's website or from a Fire Commission member.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee reported the necessity to update the 2002 Penflex cost study using 2008 numbers before submitting legislation in 2009. Members received a copy of Penflex's response to the Fire Commission's request. The cost to contract with Penflex is estimated to be

\$10,000. Fire Commission members suggested asking other organizations to share these costs.

Old Business

The Fire Commission invited Representative Peter Rines of Wiscasset, and a member of the Maine Legislature's Utilities and Energy Committee, to attend the meeting to discuss the consolidation of public service answering points (PSAPs) and dispatch centers in Maine. Representative Rines gave an overview of the Utilities and Energy Committee's work on this issue last session.

Representative Rines distributed a copy of a letter the Committee sent to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in April 2008. The Committee's letter made several strong recommendations, including the involvement of NENA. Several Fire Commission members also suggested the direct involvement of the Fire Commission in the PUC's discussions. Representative Rines offered to contact the PUC and make the request.

Fire Commission members discussed plans to move forward on the residential sprinklers education campaign. Members agreed that the Fire Commission needed to involve other organizations, including the Maine Fire Chiefs Association, Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters and the Professional Fire Fighters of Maine. Members discussed the importance of marketing and "getting out the message".

New Business

The Fire Commission's newsletter was distributed and members were encouraged to continue to forward copies to their respective organizations.

The Fire Commission discussed lightweight truss construction and whether the issue of marking buildings should be revisited by the Legislature in 2009. Members cited the success of Bangor's ordinance and the advantages of making it statewide. Alternatives to marking buildings were also discussed.

Members received copies of materials distributed by MMA regarding the reduced rates for volunteer firefighter blanket coverage. The materials included the cover letter, a request form, a brochure that explains coverage, a benefit overview and an eligibility form. Further information is available by contacting Marcus Ballou at 1-800-590-5583 X244.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Cammack adjourned the meeting at 2:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

Meeting Schedule and Dates of Interest

The July meeting has been cancelled. Happy July 4th !!

<u>Monday, August 4, 2008</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
<u>Monday, September 8, 2008</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
<u>Monday, October 6, 2008</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
<u>Monday, November 3, 2008</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
<u>Monday, November 4, 2008</u>	ELECTION DAY		
<u>Monday, December 1, 2008</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm

To be scheduled:

Visit to the New Hampshire Fire Academy